

Message Text

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64

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

OMB-01 /070 W

----- 009324

R 161005Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3393

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TH, PGOV, PINT

SUBJECT: SENATE PASSES LOCAL ELECTION BILL

REF: BANGKOK 24953

1. ON SEPTEMBER 15 THE SENATE PASSED THE LOCAL ELECTION BILL WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE DIRECT ELECTION OF SUB-DISTRICT AND VILLAGE CHIEFS EVERY FIVE YEARS (SEE REF). THE VOTE WAS 63 FOR AND 3 AGAINST. THE BILL PASSED THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON SEPTEMBER 6 (REFTEL) AND NOW GOES TO THE KING FOR HIS SIGNATURE. IN 1975, THE SENATE VOTED DOWN A SIMILAR BILL, BUT AMENDMENTS TO THE PREVIOUS LEGISLATION MADE IT MORE ACCEPTABLE TO THE SENATE.

2. THE BILL PROVIDES FOR ELECTIONS WITHIN 90 DAYS OF ENACTMENT, WHICH MEANS THE ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD BY LATE DECEMBER OR EARLY JANUARY IF THE KING SIGNS THE BILL PROMPTLY (HE IS CURRENTLY IN THE SOUTH AND HIS RETURN DATE HAS NOT BEEN ANNOUNCED).

3. THE DEMOCRATS HAVE INDICATED IN THE PAST THAT THEY

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INTEND TO RUN CANDIDATES IN LOCAL ELECTIONS, AND THE

PARTY WILL PROBABLY BEGIN GEARING UP FOR THE RACE SOON.
WHILE NO OTHER PARTIES HAVE AS MANY UPCOUNTRY PARTY BRANCHES
AS THE DEMOCRATS, IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THE DEMOCRATS
WILL HAVE A COMPLETELY OPEN FIELD, AND THE ELECTION COULD
BECOME QUITE INTERESTING. THE POSITIONS OF HEADMAN AND
SUB-DISTRICT CHIEF IN SOME AREAS OF THE COUNTRY CAN BE
LUCRATIVE AND QUITE IMPORTANT, AND SOME OF THE
COMPETITION WILL BE INTENSE. THE DEMOCRATS HOPE THAT
THE EXERCISE WILL HELP THEM TO BUILD UP A STRONGER AND
MORE PERVASIVE GRASS ROOTS ORGANIZATION WHICH WILL BE
USEFUL IN NATIONAL ELECTIONS, AND THIS WILL BE A GOOD
OPPORTUNITY FOR THE OTHER LARGE PARTIES TO EXPAND THEIR
INFLUENCE AS WELL.
BURKE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 16 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TH
To: STATE
Type: TE
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